



## Eastbay Astronomical Society Presents

### **“You Can Almost Touch the Stars The Latest in Amateur Spectroscopy**

by Tom Field, Sky and Telescope

Event: EAS Monthly Presentation

When: Saturday, June 15, 2012; 7:30 – 9:00PM

Where: Chabot Space and Science Center, Room: **Hauben**

#### **Topic**

Even if you wanted to touch a star, they're impossibly distant. Despite these great distances, researchers have learned a great deal about quite a few stars. How? The most common method to study the stars is called spectroscopy, which is the art and science of analyzing the colorful rainbow spectrum produced by a prism-like device.

Until recently, spectroscopy was too expensive and too complicated for all but a handful of amateurs. Today, though, new tools make spectroscopy accessible to almost all of us. You no longer need a PhD, dark skies, long exposures, enormous aperture ... or a big budget! With your current telescope and FITS camera (or a simple web cam or even a DSLR without a telescope) you can now easily study the stars yourself. Wouldn't you like to detect the atmosphere on Neptune or the red shift of a quasar right from your own backyard?

This talk, with lots of interesting examples, will show you what it's all about and help you understand how spectroscopy is used in research. And, it will show you how to get started.



#### **Biography of Tom Field**

Tom Field is the founder of Field Tested Systems and is a Contributing Editor at Sky & Telescope. Tom's first article in the magazine appeared in August 2011 on the topic of spectroscopy. He's the author of the RSpec software ([www.rspec-astro.com](http://www.rspec-astro.com)) which received their "Hot Product 2012" award last year. He promises to open the door for you to this fascinating field! For questions, email Tom at [info@rspec-astro.com](mailto:info@rspec-astro.com)